

"From: Don Paterson <nat.opc@xtra.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2018 2:25 PM
To: 'Mary-Anne Macleod' <Mary-Anne.Macleod@boprc.govt.nz>;
'kelly.paterson@boprc.govt.nz' <kelly.paterson@boprc.govt.nz>
Subject: Maketu Estuary could be done better

Hi Kelly and Maryanne

Please forward my letter to BOPRC Councilors"

The Editor

How can BOPRC justify spending up to 20 million ratepayer's dollars on failed Maketu Estuary Restoration Works that will not achieve what the public have asked for? There was a recent chance for Council to secure adjacent lowland for productive wetland at far less cost not taken. The latest spend currently approved by Councilors @ 13 million dollars to reintroduce just 20% of Kaituna River flow through Maketu Estuary via an unnatural channel to be dug through confiscated and purchased farmland, will not re-establish original ecosystem food chains and so will not build towards original local coastal fisheries production.

That was lost when the Kaituna River was taken from Maketu Estuary and when the Kaituna River catchments wetlands were originally drained for pastoral farming. Works now planned by staff and approved by Councilors will not stabilize Maketu Estuary spit and it will not flush sand that has in-filled Maketu Estuary since Kaituna River flushing flood flows were removed. Maketu locals have been asking for the Kaituna River to be returned through Maketu Estuary since ecosystem food chains had collapsed and Maketu Estuary had in-filled with sand from 1958 onwards.

There now seems to be no accountability needed by BOPRC staff, Councilors, or an Appeal Court Judge influenced by now proven by time to be wrong engineering advice, and questionable legal representation that was paid for by ratepayers that had led the Judge to believe that Papahikahawai Channel was blocked by a private water right when it was not. BOPRC have now failed twice to reintroduce Kaituna River flow through Maketu Estuary via the unnatural Council constructed Fords Twin Cuts. I speculate that may have been proposed by the adjacent land owner to infill the estuary for farming so obvious and destructive to the back of the spit was the mistake. Such expensive ongoing unsuccessful bungling by Council would not be tolerated in the private sector and should not I believe be tolerated in Council. Jane Nees is the only Councilor who I would reward for having shown constructive interest in my recommendations that are based on 30 years of daily observation and consideration. I had taken it to the Appeal Court to try and stop BOPRC wasting more time and public money; now proven. See Background recorded on www.wetlandsnz.com.

A very simple low cost and highly productive solution could be to place large culverts under the whole Ford Road stop bank at a height that would allow fresh water on top of every tidal cycle to infill Maketu Estuary from the Kaituna River and not allow all that

fresh water that had entered Maketu Estuary to exit at Te Tumu. Gates at the exit of Lake Rotoiti could be controlled at no extra cost to allow fresh water floods to reach the lower Kaituna River towards the top of every tidal cycle and so infill the back of Maketu Estuary with freshwater ecosystem food chains. The Kaituna River would continue to exit at Te Tumu on every tide so maintaining that exit for flood relief, boating access, recreational fishing and for gravity drainage of lowland farmland that was formerly productive wetland that had built local coastal public fisheries production.

Floods would exit at Te Tumu and at Maketu and would remove sand from the lower Maketu Estuary without cost. A Papahikahawai Channel flow maintained on the outgoing tide by the 1971 subsidized rock protection would bend around the toe of Maketu Estuary spit and so would again protect the spit from erosion from behind that comes from the back of Maketu Estuary and now also Fords Twin Cuts.

Maketu Road has been overtopped by the ocean on a high spring tide and so must be raised for public safety. That would stop bank Maketu Village and so protect Maketu from potential flooding from the Kaituna River which is moving down onto the ocean where it takes a day to mix with salt water. The lower Kaituna River could empty onto the ocean twice as fast through two exits as it currently does through one.

Maketu Estuary could now set an example for national inshore coastal fisheries production rebuild potential with the reestablishment of ecosystem galaxius (whitebait) and tuna (eel) food chains. Galaxius (whitebait) after spawning in Maketu Estuary maritime marsh and tuna (eels) in Tonga, could again reach all the way to the tributaries of the Rotorua Lakes. Maketu Estuary could again without cost provide a sheltered deep anchorage in the lee of Okurei Point.

Please BOPRC Councilors reconsider whether you want to follow the same recommendations from the same staff who have already let you down twice by failing to deliver on what they had proposed and constructed at considerable public expense. There is now a low-cost maximum potential gain solution offered for you to return Maketu Estuary to its former productive potential with pipi in abundance outside Whakaue Marae, with large boats again able to enter Maketu Estuary and where the largest ever recorded catch of fish by Maori was made using a handmade net. You now have as an alternative to wasting another 13 million dollars on the project for very little return, a chance to put the fish back in waters around Maketu without significant cost to ratepayers and to set an example of potential national fisheries production rebuild.

Kindest regards

Don Paterson
CLM; HbT SRF SNTR

Chairman, History Focus Group
Kaituna River & Maketu Estuary Management Strategy
BOP Game Fishing Charters
NZ Registered Natural Therapies Practitioner NT1634

Natural Therapies 28 Jellicoe Street Te Puke 3119
Ph 07 573 5533 fax 07 573 9363

www.naturaltherapiesnz.com
www.gamefishingcharters.co.nz
www.wetlandsnz.com